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November 16, 1926.

S
Insect Control

The Forester,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

The insect situation in this District for 1926, is much improved, as revealed by reports from the Forests and by observations of the men from this office. The loss in 1926, is very much less than in 1924 and 1925. Practically all forests report only normal infestations and with conditions improving on the others. The decreased loss this year is attributed by some field men to the heavier rainfall and consequent better growing conditions in the southwest this spring. The trees made remarkably good growth due to better moisture conditions during the spring growing season. Conditions during the summer and fall, however, were dry.

This District was greatly benefitted by Dr. Craighead's summary of conditions as given in his reports following his investigations on the Lincoln, Coconino and Prescott Forests. In addition, the field men visited had a very much better idea of insect work. It is hoped that we may have the benefit of similar visits in the future. Field men in the southwest are much more on the alert in sizing up insect infestations.

The insect situation in the southwest does not warrant control work for the coming year and none is recommended. The summarized reports for the Forests follow:

APACHE

Conditions normal. Ips infestation in the pinon type which showed up in 1925 does not now appear serious.

CARSON

The spruce bud worm infestation is less serious than in 1925. The cone weevil area on the east side of the Amarilla Division remains unchanged. An area of aspen timber on the west side of El Rito Creek was defoliated in 1926. Specimens of the caterpillar doing the work were collected by Dr. Taylor of the Biological Survey and sent to the Bureau of Entomology where they were identified. It was reported, however, that nothing practical could be recommended and that the infestation would probably die out in a few years. Othern than the above, only normal loss is being sustained by insects on the remainder of the Forest.

COCONINO

Conditions on the Forest are reported as normal.

CORONADO

The infestation on Rincon Mountain, reported last year, was examined this spring by the Supervisor's office which reports little change. This infestation is not considered serious, and otherwise the Forest is reported normal.

CROOK

A certain amount of loss in the yellow pine type due to insects is reported by the Supervisor's office, but is considered only a normal infestation.

DATIL

Conditions as reported in last year's report for the Datil were considered serious. A very marked improvement can be reported for the year 1926. The Forest this year states: "Conditions on the Datil are very much improved as to insect infestation over 1925. The exceptionally wet spring season was without doubt a favorable factor in reducing losses. A scattering tree here and there is all the loss noticed this summer."

GILA

Conditions on the Gila are reported normal. The Cooper Creek area referred to in last year's report was examined this spring, but the infestation is not considered active.

LINCOLN

Conditions on the Lincoln may be summarized by quoting from the Supervisor's report:

"The Dendroctonus barberi infestation on the south side of the Capitan Mountains has practically subsided, only now and then a tree high up on the mountain has been attacked and shows up at this time.

"The infestation of defoliated insects at the head of Wills and Hubbell Canyon southeast of the Fairchild's Ranger Station has practically subsided.

"Mr. Salton spent September 16, with Ranger Work and Mr. Neel, logging Superintendent of the Southwest Lumber Company, on the area, at which time no signs that the infestation was active were found, nor had the infestation spread any during the summer.

"Considerable damage has been done by bark beetles, believed by Mr. Salton to be Dendroctonus engelmanni, to the Engelmann spruce of this area. These have been especially active during the spring and summer of 1926.

"The infestation which killed a greater part ofthe pinon timber along the west slopes of the Sacramento Mountains near High Rolls has also subsided, there being only now and then a tree showing up as being attacked or killed by the infestation. This infestation consisted principally of Ips bark beetles.

"The damage done to reproduction in the Weed and Mayhill Districts last year has also subsided and the reproduction at this time looks as healthy as it did in 1922 and 1923. Much of the reproduction on the dry sunny hillsides was killed during 1925.

"The outbreak of Dendroctonus beetles, consisting of barberi and convexifrons, in the vicinity of Cloudcroft scattered over most of the Sacramentos is not as noticeable as it was a year ago, however, there are trees to be found over most of this area at this time, which have been killed during this season.

"The insect infestation of Dendroctonus on the Indian Reservation was especially active during the early part of the summer. However, no investigation has been made since by members of this office of the Reservation timber.

"In July the oak brush on the Capitan Mountains began to turn brown, on examination it was found that a small worm was working on the leaves. At a distance the hills looked as if they might have had a heavy frost, and the leaves turning. However, in September this had all passedand the oak brush looked green and alive."

MANZANO

Conditions on the Manzano, while showing improvement in certain arees, in others the conditions are little changed from 1925. Conditions may best be described by quoting from the Supervisor's report:

"There has been some very serious insect infestation on the forest during the past year. On the south end of the Chupadera Mesa from forty to fifty per cent of the pinon trees have been killed and on the north end of the mesa around ten per cent. This is in my opinion due to a weakened condition of the trees on account of drouth which has made them easy victims for the Ips. I do not see that any control measure would be possible or practical in this part of the country.

"The Dendroctonus barberi continues to take its toll on the east slope of the Sandies and some thousand or fifteen hundred trees have been killed during the past year.

"The Dendroctonus barberi infested area heretofore reported in the vicinity of the Tajique Ranger Station in the Manzano Mountains is becoming less a problem. The insects are gradually dying out and only four or five trees have been killed during the past year.

"The Malacosoma sp. or tent caterpillar which first infested the Mt. Taylor area in 1922 continues to rage and during the past year most of the aspen thickets and a large amount of the gambel oak was stripped of its foliage. However, it is not believed that any of this timberhas been actually killed. These caterpillars hatch out about June 1 and by July 1 they have the trees pretty well stripped. The caterpillar goes into cocoons about July 1, doing no additional damage that season and the trees usually re-leaf during the remainder of the summer, but the foliageis much lighter than on trees not infested."

PRESCOTT

Conditions on the Prescott are reported as little changed since Dr. Craighead's visit. In accordance with Dr. Craighead's suggestion, trees cut each month will be tagged and a record kept of conditions. This data will be sent as soon as available.

SANTA FE

The Supervisor of the Santa Fe Forest reports insect conditions on that Forest as follows:

"The bud worm damage has continued with somewhat abated intensity over the areas previously covered but there has been no great extension of this area and there does not appear to be any practical means of checking it. Insect damage in other ways is merely normal."

SITGREAVES

The Supervisor reports conditions normal with improved growth, color and vigor for the reproduction in the Decker Wash country and east. The improved condition is attributed by the Supervisor to the excellent moisture conditions this spring.

Conditions on the Tusayan and Tonto Forests are reported as normal.

No mention is made in the reports from the Forests of the tip moth damage that has been referred to frequently. This damage is widespread and in many places quite severe. This damage falling as it does on the reproduction class is a more serious loss than that sustained in the normal killing of somewhat weakened mature trees. The cone weevil damage is in the same class.

The heavier loss in 1925, as compared to former years has been of benefit to the entire field personnel in this district in increasing their knowledge of insects, their work, their identification and the necessity of keeping track of normal infestations.

Very truly yours,

FRANK C.W.POOLER, District Forester,

By (s) Quincy Rendles Acting.